

been made and there have been some very dramatic changes in Douglas County. The issue of the amendment that Senator Witek has in front of us, constitutional change, I disagree philosophically with the issue of whether or not the Legislature has the ability to set the standards by which valuation is to occur. I don't know how the Attorney General might rule on the request that she has submitted. I, again, appreciate the fact that she did that, recognizing the problems that she probably, as much as any of us in the Douglas County delegation are feeling, probably even a little more because of the area that she represents with regard to the valuation changes that are taking place. My concern is that I believe the Legislature does have the ability to set those ranges. I believe it merely is an extension of the taxing authority that we are given in the Constitution and that the ability for this body to say here's where the ranges should be is clearly not only our...within our purview but it very likely is our responsibility. So I don't disagree with what the intent of LB 137 is. It is a process, a policy that I agree with, that we ought to get as close to 100 percent of valuation as possible so that we can keep the property tax rates as low as possible. The problem is, is that we have been working very hard to try to get there in Douglas County and it has been not the quickest of processes but we're getting very close. To have the emergency clause on this bill would allow for it to take effect for the current taxing year which would be more of an issue of perception over fact in terms of what effect it might have. It will be looked upon as an effort by this body to move even quicker, I guess, to add insult to injury for those people in Douglas County and other counties who have had, in some cases, 100 percent increases in their property taxes. Frankly, there's been a need to make some changes there and we are in the process of doing that, and I don't disagree with making those changes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: But there is a real, I think, concern that if we have this bill effective for the coming tax year that very likely the result will be that the Legislature will be looked upon as a body that has not been willing to listen to the concerns of their constituents. Maybe some of you won't feel the heat that the rest of us will. Doesn't mean that I don't think that this is good policy, that we get as close to